

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of stitching plural radiographic images to form
a blended composite radiographic image comprising:

5 determining a stitching boundary adjustment for use in
adjusting boundary pixels of the composite image;
determining an adjustment for other pixels that are located at
some distance from the boundary,
wherein the adjustment for the other pixels depends on the
stitching boundary adjustment and on values of the boundary pixels.

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2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the boundary
adjustment depends on the values of the boundary pixels.

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3. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the boundary
adjustment is independent of the values of the boundary pixels.

4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the boundary
pixels comprise at least one line of pixels in the composite image.

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5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein determining an
adjustment for other pixels that are located at some distance from the
boundary further comprises:

determining a rate of change of the adjustment for the other pixels based on the stitching boundary adjustment and on values of the boundary pixels.

- 5 6. A method according to Claim 1, wherein determining a stitching boundary adjustment for use in adjusting boundary pixels of the composite image further comprises:

 determining an average value of the boundary pixels.

- 10 7. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
 using the blended composite image as a diagnostic instrument to examine a subject of the composite image.

- 15 8. A method according to Claim 7, wherein the blended composite image is used in medical diagnosis.

9. A method according to Claim 8, wherein the medical diagnosis comprises a scoliosis assessment.

- 20 10. A method according to Claim 7, wherein the blended composite image is a hip-to-foot image.

11. A method according to Claim 7, wherein the blended composite image is used in non-destructive industrial testing.

12. A method of blending plural radiographic images to form a blended composite radiographic image comprising:

applying a pixel value adjustment to each pixel of the composite image that is located within a stitching boundary of the composite image;

adjusting values of other pixels in the composite image that are located within an area of adjustment that is adjacent to the stitching boundary, the adjustment area is determined based on a rate of change of an adjustment amount of the other pixels,

wherein the rate of change is dependent on boundary pixel values and on the pixel value adjustment made to the boundary pixels.

13. A method according to Claim 12, wherein as a difference in values of pixels at the boundary decreases, the area of the adjustment increases.

14. A method according to Claim 12, wherein as a difference in values of pixels at the boundary increases, the area of the adjustment decreases.

15. A method according to Claim 12, wherein the rate of change is a decreasing rate.

16. A method according to Claim 15, wherein the rate of decrease in the adjustment amount increases as the pixel value difference increases.

5 17. A method according to Claim 15, wherein the rate of decrease in the adjustment amount decreases as the pixel value difference decreases.

10 18. A method of using a composite radiographic image as a diagnostic instrument, the method comprising:
blending plural radiographic images to form a blended composite radiographic image according to a blending method which comprises the steps of applying a pixel value adjustment to each pixel of the composite image that is located within a stitching boundary of the composite
15 image, and adjusting values of other pixels in the composite image that are located within an area of adjustment that is adjacent to the stitching boundary, the adjustment area is determined based on a rate of change of an adjustment amount of the other pixels, wherein the rate of change is dependent on boundary pixel values and on the pixel value adjustment made to the boundary
20 pixels; and
using the composite image in examining a subject of the composite image.

19. A method according to Claim 18, wherein the blended composite image is used in medical diagnosis.

5 20. A method according to Claim 18, wherein the medical diagnosis comprises a scoliosis assessment.

21. A method according to Claim 18, wherein the blended composite image is a hip-to-foot image.

10 22. A method according to Claim 18, wherein the blended composite image is used in non-destructive industrial testing.